

25X1

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Information on the "Gaertner" Regiment of Armeegruppe Nord

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT June 1952 to early March 1953

25X1

DATE PREPARED 10 June 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

1. In the summer of 1952, when Armeegruppe Nord was being activated at the Eggesin II tent camp, the "Gaertner" artillery regiment, which had [REDACTED] was formed. In June 1952, this regiment consisted of 600 to 800 men. It comprised a 1st Bn of four batteries, each with 4 x 122-mm guns model 43 field howitzers to each battery; and the 2d through 4th Bns of four batteries, each with 4 x 152-mm (model 37 field howitzers) to each battery; a reconnaissance unit; a flash-and sound-ranging battery; a motor transport section; and a signal platoon. The regiment had the status of a cadre unit with regard both to personnel and equipment; its commanding officer was VP Oberrat Gaertner (fnu); chief of staff was VP Oberkommissar Zipfel (fnu); and motor officer VP Unterkommissar Herbert Lotz. VP Rat Dittmar (fnu), previously deputy commanding officer of the regiment, was transferred to a military court. VP Rat Dreihardt (fnu), previously PK officer of the unit, was also transferred.
2. In early August 1952, the artillery regiment was moved from the Eggesin II tent camp to Viereck near Pasewalk, where the regiment was increased to about 1,600 men. The EM were given field equipment and the regiment was furnished with its authorized gun equipment. The motor transport section received 69 tracked vehicles and a sizable number of com and cars.
3. In November 1952, the artillery regiment moved to their winter quarters at the Flakkaserne in Kochstedt near Dessau. For instruction purposes one battery of each battalion took along its guns. The other gun equipment of the regiment remained at Viereck, where work on the erection of permanent billets was started. A guard detail in the strength of one battery remained in Viereck.
4. [REDACTED] an advanced combat firing practice was to be held by the regiment near Jaegerbrueck, Kreis Pasewalk, on 9 April 1953. This was to be the first firing practice of the unit carried out with live ammunition.
5. During the reported period the former billets of ammunition workers at Eggesin quartered three A-Kommandos, one B-Kommando, and a special unit. Prior to August 1952, this camp had also housed the headquarters of Armeegruppe Nord, which then moved to the barracks installation in Pasewalk.

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

25X1

217

25X1

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1A

vacated by the Soviets. Lieutenant General **Rentsch** was the commanding general of Armeegruppe Nord.

25X1A

Comment. The How Arty Regt of Armeegruppe Nord, which is commanded by Major Gaertner, moved back to the area north of Pasewalk in mid-April.

25X1

SECRET